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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
OXFORD DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, §  
v. § CRIMINAL CASE No.:3:21-CR-107SA  
THOMAS AYODELE. §

**THOMAS AYODELE'S REPLY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE**

The government is incorrect!! Thomas AYODELE's state conviction is for POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA not for possession of cocaine. Specifically, the amended sentencing order says: "This date 1-6-09 into open court came the District Attorney and the defendant who was represented by counsel, Hon. John Turner. The defendant was lawfully indicted and arraigned on the charge(s) of SALE OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE - REDUCED TO POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - 1 COUNT ... It is therefore ordered and adjudged that the defendant is hereby sentenced to serve a term of 10 yrs in an institution to be designated by the Mississippi Department of Corrections with 7yrs suspended and 3 yrs to serve." See exhibit 1.

In addition, the government is incorrect to suggest that "no sentencing range has been reduced for ... [M]arihuana convictions under Amendment 821." See Gov's Response at 1.

In fact, Amendment 821's Part C – Impact of Simple Possession of Marihuana Offenses, instructs otherwise. The following is quoted to prove that the government ignores this fact against THOMAS's constitutional rights:

**“Part C (Impact of Simple Possession of Marihuana Offenses)**

The Commentary to §4A1.3 captioned “Application Notes”, as amended by Part B, Subpart 3 of this amendment, is further amended in Note 3 by striking the following: Downward Departures.—

(A) Examples.—A downward departure from the defendant’s criminal history category may be warranted based on any of the following circumstances:

(i) The defendant had two minor misdemeanor convictions close to ten years prior to the instant offense and no other evidence of prior criminal behavior in the intervening period.

**(ii) The defendant received criminal history points from a sentence for possession of marihuana for personal use, without an intent to sell or distribute it to another person.**

(B) Downward Departures from Criminal History Category I.—A departure below the lower limit of the applicable guideline range for Criminal History Category I is prohibited under subsection (b)(2)(A), unless otherwise specified.”.

**Reason for Amendment:**

This amendment is the result of several Commission studies regarding the nature of the criminal history of federal offenders, including analyses of the number and types of prior convictions included as criminal history and the ability of the criminal history rules to predict an offender’s likelihood of rearrest. While these studies continue to recognize the close association between an offender’s criminal history calculation under the guidelines and the likelihood of future recidivism, the amendment makes targeted changes to reduce the impact of providing additional criminal history points for offenders under a criminal justice sentence (commonly known as “status points”), to reduce recommended guideline ranges for offenders

with zero criminal history points under the guidelines (“zero-point offenders”), and to recognize the changing legal landscape as it pertains to simple possession of marihuana offenses. These targeted amendments balance the Commission’s mission of implementing data-driven sentencing policies with its duty to craft penalties that reflect the statutory purposes of sentencing.

Part C of the amendment revises the Commentary to §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)) to include sentences resulting from possession of marihuana offenses as an example of when a downward departure from the defendant’s criminal history may be warranted.

Specifically, Part C provides that a downward departure may be warranted if the defendant received criminal history points from a sentence for possession of marihuana for personal use, without an intent to sell or distribute it to another person. Most commenters, including the Department of Justice, supported this change. See Letter from Jonathan J. Wroblewski, Dir., Crim. Div., U.S. Dep’t of Just., to Hon. Carlton W. Reeves, Chair, U.S. Sent’g Comm’n (Feb. 27, 2023), in U.S. Sent’g Comm’n, 2022–2023 Amendment Cycle Proposed Amendments/Public Comment (2023); see also U.S. Sent’g Comm’n, 2022–2023 Amendment Cycle Proposed Amendments/Public Comment (2023) (providing numerous public comment supporting the amendment).

The Commission also relied upon its recently published report on the impact of simple possession of marihuana offenses on sentencing. See U.S. Sent’g Comm’n, Weighing the Impact of Simple Possession of Marijuana: Trends and Sentencing in the Federal System (2023), available at <https://www.ussc.gov/research/research-reports/weighing-impactsimplepossession-marijuana>.

In that study, the Commission found that 4,405 federal offenders (8.0%) received criminal history points under the federal sentencing guidelines for prior marihuana possession sentences in fiscal year 2021. Most such prior sentences were for state court convictions resulting in less than 60 days in prison or non-custodial sentences. The Commission also found informative that ten percent (10.2%) of these 4,405 offenders had no other criminal history points, and that for 40 percent (40.1%) of the 4,405 offenders (1,765), the criminal history points for prior marihuana possession sentences resulted in a higher Criminal History Category.”

The government is attempting to mislead this Honorable District Court by arguing that “at sentencing AYODELE’s counsel cited his 2009 conviction for marihuana possession. Doc. 208, p.5. That’s was incorrect. The PSR clearly shows the conviction was for cocaine. Even so, were AYODELE’s prior conviction for marihuana possession, nothing in Amendment 821 refers to Sentence reductions for marihuana convictions.” See Gov’s Response at 4.

In order to prove that the government is TOTALLY INCORRECT, AYODELE is submitting his Sentencing Hearing Transcripts as Exhibit 2 for proper verification on the correct statement of fact and law in regards to the marihuana convictions. Clearly PSR is wrong and must be rectified should this Honorable District Court’s discretion allows. After all, the government concedes that “AYODELE received a 3 criminal history points for receiving a sentence of more than one year.” She Gov’s Response at 2.

Finally, AYODELE’S ineffective assistance of counsel and prosecutorial misconduct issues are hereby preserved for a collateral review under Section 2255 because are a direct violation of his constitutional rights.

May this Honorable District Court grant relief sought or any other appropriate relief.

Signed under pain and penalties of perjury under 28 USC § 1746.

Dated: March 20, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ 

Ayodele Thomas, Pro Se

Fed.Reg.No. 73342-509

FCC Yazoo City Low II

P.O. Box 5000

Yazoo City, MS 39194

**Certificate of Service**

I, Ayodele Thomas, certified that the forgoing Reply has been filed in this Honorable U.S. District Court of Mississippi throughout mail prepaid postage and a true copy has been sent to Paul D. Roberts, Assistant U.S. Attorney at Ethridge Building, 900 Jefferson Ave., Oxford, MS 38655. Signed under pain and penalties of perjury 28 USC § 1746.

Dated: March 20, 2024.

/s/ 

Ayodele Thomas, Pro Se

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
OXFORD DIVISION**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,                          §  
V.    § CRIMINAL CASE No.:3:21-CR-107SA  
THOMAS AYODELE.                                        §**

**LIST OF EXHIBITS**

- 1. AYODELE THOMAS'S AMENDED SENTENCING ORDER FOR  
POSSESSION OF MARIHUANA DATED 01/08/2009,**
  
- 2. AYODELE THOMAS'S SENTENCING HEARING TRANSCRIPTS AT THE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF  
MISSISSIPPI DATED 06/13/2023.**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

VERSUS

T ROKO T AYODELE DEFENDANT

CAUSE NO. LK 05-182A

AMENDED SENTENCING ORDER  
(RIGHT OF REVIEW)

This day, 1-10-09, into open court came the District Attorney and the defendant, who was represented by counsel, Hon. JONAH TURNER. The defendant was lawfully indicted and arraigned on the charge(s) of SALE OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE - REDUCED TO POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - 1 COUNT.

The Court hereby finds: (1) that the defendant's petition to plead guilty was entered by the defendant; (2) that (s)he was duly advised of his/her rights by the Court and Counsel; (3) that the defendant has been advised of the minimum and maximum sentence; (4) that the defendant has not been confined on a prior felony conviction; (5) that the defendant is competent to offer said plea of guilty; and (6) that said plea is offered voluntarily, knowingly, deliberately, and intelligently by said defendant. The Court hereby accepts the defendant's petition to plead guilty.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the defendant is hereby sentenced to serve a term of 10 yrs in an institution to be designated by the Mississippi Department of Corrections with 7 yrs suspended and

3 yrs to serve. Multiple counts, if any, shall be FILE THIS THE 8 DAY OF JANUARY 2009 PAGE 145 - 147  
MINUTE BOOK 61 PAGE 145 - 147  
MARY ALICE BUSBY, CIRCUIT CLERK  
BY D.B. D.C.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
OXFORD DIVISION

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**PLAINTIFF**

vs.

NO. 3:21CR107

THOMAS IROKO AYODELE, a/k/a  
"ROKO"

**DEFENDANT**

## **SENTENCING HEARING**

BEFORE HONORABLE SHARON AYCOCK  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Oxford, Mississippi  
June 13, 2023

## **APPEARANCES:**

For the Government: ROBERT J. MIMS, Esquire  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
900 Jefferson Avenue  
Oxford, MS 38655

For the Defendant: WILLIAM F. TRAVIS, Esquire  
8619 Highway 51 North  
Southaven, MS 38671

Court Reporter: PHYLLIS K. McLARTY, RMR, FCRR, CCR #1235  
Federal Official Court Reporter  
911 Jackson Avenue East  
Oxford, MS 38655

1                             (2:55 P.M.)

2                             THE COURT: Okay. You may call the case.

3                             COURTROOM DEPUTY: The Court calls Case Number  
4 3:21CR107, United States of America versus Thomas Iroko  
5 Ayodele. This is a sentencing hearing.

6                             THE COURT: Thank you.

7                             Robert Mims represents the government in this  
8 proceeding. The defendant is represented by Bill Travis. Our  
9 probation officer is Andrew Fountain.

10                          Mr. Ayodele, you recall the jury trial, and in that  
11 circumstance, the jury found you guilty of both Counts 1 and 2.  
12 So today you are here for sentencing. Do you understand?

13                          THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

14                          THE COURT: Could I ask you to stand for me, please.

15                          (DEFENDANT AND HIS COUNSEL COMPLY.)

16                          THE COURT: So in a previous hearing this afternoon --  
17 you were present -- we dealt with the objection that is stated  
18 in your presentence -- that you stated to the presentence  
19 report. You heard that argument and that decision by the  
20 Court; correct?

21                          THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

22                          THE COURT: Mr. Travis, does the defense -- defendant  
23 have any other objections to the presentence report?

24                          MR. TRAVIS: No, Your Honor.

25                          THE COURT: Does the government have any objections to

1           the other parts of the presentence report?

2           **MR. MIMS:** We do not, Your Honor.

3           **THE COURT:** And that objection on restraint was  
4 sustained.

5           Mr. Travis, does the defendant desire to call any  
6 witnesses prior to sentencing?

7           **MR. TRAVIS:** No, Your Honor.

8           **THE COURT:** Thank you.

9           So at this time, sir, I'm going to give you an  
10 opportunity to speak to the Court, matters that you want me to  
11 hear and have an understanding of before we proceed for  
12 sentencing. So you may speak at this time.

13           **THE DEFENDANT:** I just wanted to thank -- first of  
14 all, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

15           I wanted to thank my sister, Ms. Barnes, Ms. -- both  
16 the Ms. Logans, and the other young lady there just come in to,  
17 you know, assist me or whatnot.

18           And I just -- I wanted to say as far as the  
19 accusations on me, I have never been a violent person, ever, in  
20 my life other than playing football, you know.

21           Before this, two days before Mother's Day, I lost my  
22 mother. And, you know, I've lost a lot of stuff, but, you  
23 know, anything tangible I can -- you know, I can get that back,  
24 you know, but by me losing my mother and not being able to go  
25 to her funeral, that kind of hurt me, you know. You know, and

1 I wasn't -- I couldn't be there with my family, and, you know,  
2 just basically, you know, that hurt me bad.

3           But other than that, you know, I will ask you to, you  
4 know, have leniency on me because I'm not -- not a bad person  
5 at all. Like, I've gotten into trouble before, but I haven't  
6 been in any trouble other than a simple speeding ticket. You  
7 know, I don't have any lucrative drug problem or anything like  
8 that, you know.

9           I maintained a job for 15 years with the State of  
10 Mississippi. And, you know, I was just -- you know, upon these  
11 accusations, I lost my job too that, you know, I only needed a  
12 couple more years to retire. But, you know, like I said,  
13 that's just a job. You know, I can get another job, you know.

14           And, basically, that's about it.

15           **THE COURT:** Thank you, sir.

16           Mr. Mims.

17           **MR. MIMS:** I don't intend to repeat every detail of  
18 what I said earlier during Mr. Smith's sentencing. The Court  
19 has heard it and knows the Government's position. Mr. Travis  
20 was in here and knows the Government's position.

21           I would just simply point out, I hear Mr. Ayodele say  
22 that he's not a violent person and not a bad person at all. I  
23 would just simply remind the Court that he actively  
24 participated in a crime that involved the physical beating of  
25 an approximately 65-year-old gentleman who was physically and

1 emotionally traumatized by this event.

2 You've heard and you've reviewed the testimony from  
3 Mr. Cobbs at the trial. I know also at the trial you had a  
4 chance to hear the 911 call where Mr. Cobbs called 911  
5 immediately after the crime, and you could hear the terror in  
6 his voice, if you recall that, of that 911 call.

7 Obviously, I feel very strongly about people that  
8 would commit such a crime or participate in such a crime, and I  
9 do believe that Mr. Ayodele deserves a -- a significant  
10 sentence within the guidelines to hold him accountable for his  
11 actions.

12 That's all I have, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 Mr. Travis.

15 MR. TRAVIS: If it please the Court. Thank you, Your  
16 Honor.

17 Your Honor, I know the Court has reviewed the  
18 sentencing memo filed on my client's behalf, and I would  
19 certainly ask the Court to consider the highlights that I've  
20 tried to make; that this young man, at the age of 40 now, had a  
21 criminal history category of II. However, that's based on a  
22 2009 marijuana charge; during that era, a simple possession  
23 charge. I'd ask the Court to mitigate the weight of that  
24 that's inherent in that issue as we stand here today and the  
25 countryside and its relationship to marijuana in general.

1           I would ask the Court to consider the many letters  
2 filed on his behalf by family and loved ones that certainly  
3 speak of a young man who's highly intelligent. He has a high  
4 degree of responsibility and ambition in that he's gotten  
5 himself educated, was active in sports when he was in college,  
6 has maintained consistent employment throughout his young life,  
7 and had everything going for him in regards to not only  
8 employment with the State but also self-employment. So he's  
9 certainly shown to the Court someone who is exemplary in his  
10 work ethic and his ability to serve society in that regard and  
11 create jobs.

12           I know he just mentioned the tragic loss of his mother  
13 recently. I spoke to his father this morning. He is not in  
14 good health, and up until his mother's passing, both of those  
15 people, again, you know, looked upon Mr. Ayodele as a major  
16 source of support in their lives.

17           The guideline range, Your Honor, has been adjusted in  
18 regards to the Court's sustaining the objection, but I'd ask  
19 the Court to consider the low end and/or a downward variance in  
20 light of his exemplary behavior since he was in trouble in  
21 2009.

22           On the 3553, Your Honor, I think when he was in  
23 trouble before from the 2009 conviction, there was no  
24 indication, no indicia whatsoever, that he did anything to  
25 dishonor his probation requirements. And, again, that was at

1       the age of 22 when he's had his own prior felony conviction.  
2       He's just shown exemplary reliability, good conduct, and work  
3       ethic. That speaks loudly for his integrity.

4           He mentioned briefly -- and I don't disagree with  
5       probation on the fact that there have been some minor usage of  
6       drugs, but he would be willing to enter into any substance  
7       abuse treatment program that the Court may deem appropriate.

8           Again, with -- you know, with that said and with the  
9       memo submitted, we're asking the Court for a downward  
10      departure. I don't think as it speaks -- from the time he was  
11      in trouble from the 2009 conviction until this problem here  
12      before the Court today, he had not been in trouble at all. So  
13      with the exception of that, he would have come before the Court  
14      with a Category I.

15           I would ask the Court to consider those remarks, and  
16      we'll submit it on that, Your Honor. Thank you.

17           **THE COURT:** Let the record also reflect that I have  
18      received several reference letters on his behalf, Mr. Ayodele's  
19      behalf, and I've also received the sentencing memorandum that  
20      Mr. Travis referenced, as well as the victim statement in this  
21      case from Mr. Cobbs.

22           I just trust, by way of explanation, that, attorneys,  
23      you can figure out that I'm kind of struggling with this case  
24      because I guess I was surprised, to be very candid, of the low  
25      criminal activity of all three of the defendants involved in

1       this case. Yet, at the same time, I found Mr. Cobbs's  
2 testimony at trial, as well as his victim statement, to be  
3 impactful, at his age doing a job that he loved and having done  
4 it for years without anything like this happening, without any  
5 injury, and then just these three individuals conspiring to  
6 make this a bad day for Mr. Cobbs.

7           So I have tried to take all of that into  
8 consideration. I don't necessarily think in any one of these  
9 cases that the high end of the guidelines is appropriate. It  
10 seems to the Court that something more than a minimum sentence  
11 at the low end is justified in these -- in this case.

12          So, Mr. Ayodele, as I referenced and spoke with  
13 Mr. Smith, the sentence that I am going to impose is  
14 mid-guideline. It is, taking all of this into consideration,  
15 what is an adequate sentence but not to put you at the high  
16 end.

17           So having explained that, the Court adopts the  
18 presentence investigation report without change.

19           The Court has previously sustained Objection Number 1  
20 regarding the restraint enhancement.

21           No count of conviction carries a mandatory minimum  
22 sentence.

23           The total offense level has been adjusted, based upon  
24 sustaining the two-level enhancement objection, to 31 versus  
25 33. That changes the guideline range in this case, 121 to

1       151 months. This defendant does have a criminal history  
2 category of II, as compared to the other two defendants who  
3 have a criminal history category of I. The supervised release  
4 range, Count 1 carries a term up to 3 years; Count 2, a term up  
5 to 5 years. And the fine range in this case, as modified, is  
6 30,000 up to 300,000, but the Court understands that you do not  
7 have the ability to pay a fine.

8           I'm going to remind you, Mr. Ayodele, that Count 1  
9 carries a term of imprisonment up to 5 years. Count 2 carries  
10 a term of imprisonment up to 25 years.

11           The sentence is within the guideline range, and the  
12 difference between the maximum and minimum of the guideline  
13 range exceeds 24 months, and the specific sentence is imposed  
14 for these reasons.

15           There is restitution in this case. The total amount  
16 of restitution is 61,331.88. I'll explain to you in a moment  
17 how that breaks out between the postal department and  
18 Mr. Cobbs.

19           In imposing sentence, the Court has considered the  
20 advisory guideline range, the statutory penalties, and the  
21 sentencing factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C., Section 3553(a)(2),  
22 which set forth the need for the sentence imposed to reflect  
23 the seriousness of the offense, promote respect for the law,  
24 and provide just punishment; to afford adequate deterrence to  
25 criminal conduct; to protect the public; and also to provide

1       the defendant with educational or vocational training, medical  
2 care, or other correctional treatment; also to avoid  
3 unwarranted sentencing disparities; and to provide restitution  
4 to a victim.

5              The Court finds no reason to depart from the sentence  
6 called for by the application of the guidelines inasmuch as the  
7 facts as found are the kind contemplated by the sentencing  
8 commission.

9              Pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act, it is the  
10 judgment of the Court, Mr. Ayodele, that you be committed to  
11 the Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of  
12 136 months. This consists of 60 months on Count 1 and  
13 136 months on Count 2. Again, that is mid-range sentence  
14 guideline. Those sentences are to be served concurrently.

15              On supervised release -- upon release, you'll be  
16 placed on supervised release on Count 1 for a term of 3 years,  
17 on Count 2 for a term of 5 years. That is also to run  
18 concurrently.

19              You should -- there are -- there is -- excuse me --  
20 one mandatory condition on supervision. That is, you must  
21 cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by your  
22 probation officer.

23              And there are a number of standard conditions. Those  
24 were in your presentence report. I know you probably reviewed  
25 those with your attorney, but you'll forget those based upon

1       your period of incarceration. So the probation officer will  
2 review those upon release.

3           The Court is imposing a number of special conditions.  
4 You shall provide the probation officer with access to any  
5 requested financial information. That is in order to ensure  
6 that the restitution gets paid back.

7           You shall not incur any new credit charges or open  
8 additional lines of credit without the approval of your  
9 probation officer. Again, to ensure that restitution is paid.

10          You shall participate in a program of testing and  
11 treatment for substance abuse. The details of that will be  
12 worked out by your probation officer, but you'll stay in that  
13 program for as long as your probation officer thinks that's  
14 necessary.

15          You shall not possess, ingest, or otherwise use  
16 marijuana or marijuana products unless that is prescribed by a  
17 licensed physician for a legitimate medical reason.

18          There is a search condition in your case. You shall  
19 submit your person, property, house, residence, vehicle,  
20 papers, computers, electronic data storage devices, or your  
21 office to a search conducted by the United States Probation  
22 Officer. That search would only take place from a  
23 reasonable -- at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner.  
24 However, whomever you're going to live with, you do need to  
25 notify them that you are subject to this search.

1                   As I indicated earlier, the restitution amount that  
2 you owe is 61,331.88. The amount that -- of that that is owed  
3 to the postal service is 60,706. The amount of 625.88 is due  
4 to Mr. Cobbs for some medical expenses. Those payments will  
5 begin immediately.

6                   After you are released from incarceration, if there is  
7 a balance owing, then you will pay that beginning 60 days after  
8 your date of release. And it will be 10 percent of your gross  
9 monthly income or at least \$100 per month.

10                  Now, you're going to owe this amount of restitution in  
11 conjunction with your other two codefendants -- jointly and  
12 severally with the other two defendants.

13                  No fine is being ordered in this case due to your  
14 inability to pay, but you do owe the \$200 to the court --  
15 clerk's office. That is \$100 per count for the special  
16 assessment for a total of \$200.

17                  Now, at this time, Mr. Ayodele, I'm going to read you  
18 your right to appeal. You have the right to appeal the verdict  
19 and any sentence imposed illegally or as a result of a  
20 miscalculation of the guidelines or a sentence that is outside  
21 the guideline range or one that you feel is plainly  
22 unreasonable.

23                  If you are unable to pay for the cost of an appeal,  
24 you may request that the Court waive those costs. If you're  
25 unable to afford an attorney, the Court will appoint you an

1 attorney for purposes of appeal.

2 Do you understand the judgment?

3 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

4 **THE COURT:** Do you have any questions?

5 **THE DEFENDANT:** No, Your Honor.

6 **THE COURT:** Any other matters, Mr. Travis?

7 **MR. TRAVIS:** If it please the Court, just to close  
8 out, Your Honor, I would ask the Court to consider what -- if  
9 it could suggest either Yazoo City, Mississippi, facility or  
10 Forrest City, Arkansas.

11 Also, respectfully, for the record, on behalf of  
12 Mr. Ayodele, we object to the reasonableness of the Court's  
13 sentence today.

14 **THE COURT:** I understand the objection to the  
15 reasonableness of the sentence. Also, the judgment can contain  
16 a recommendation that you place -- be placed at one of those  
17 two facilities.

18 Anything, Mr. Mims?

19 **MR. MIMS:** No, Your Honor.

20 **THE COURT:** Very well. You're remanded now to the  
21 marshal service.

22 **MR. TRAVIS:** Thank you, Your Honor.

23 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

24 (CONCLUDED AT 3:15 P.M.)

25

## CERTIFICATE

3 I, Phyllis K. McLarty, Federal Official Realtime Court  
4 Reporter, in and for the United States District Court for the  
5 Northern District of Mississippi, do hereby certify that  
6 pursuant to Section 753, Title 28, United States Code, that the  
7 foregoing 13 pages are a true and correct transcript of the  
8 stenographically reported proceedings held in the  
9 above-entitled matter and that the transcript page format is in  
10 conformance with the regulations of the Judicial Conference of  
11 the United States.

12 Witness my hand, this 29th day of August, 2023.

/s/ Phyllis K. McLarty  
PHYLLIS K. McLARTY, RMR, FCRR, CCR #1235  
Federal Official Court Reporter

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CPU



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